

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

December 9, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZE THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY TO RE-EMPLOY A RETIRED
COUNTY EMPLOYEE ON AN INDEFINITE BASIS
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

#### **SUBJECT**

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting that your Board approve a Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) member's return to work, thereby suspending the member's retirement benefits, and returning that member to active employment.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Authorize the District's re-employment of retired LACERA member, Mr. Vance Colvig, in compliance with Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 and Senate Bill (SB) 579.

#### SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

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### PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The District is requesting your Board's approval to re-employ Mr. Vance Colvig into active County service as a permanent Pilot, Fire Services, Schedule 102A, Step 6, \$8,731.00 per month. This request is consistent with your Board's policy, adopted July 6, 1993, which allows the re-employment of retired County employees on an indefinite basis and your Board's resolution, adopted October 7, 2008, which permits a safety member who was required to retire from service because of age to be re-employed by the County in the same position that he retired from.

## Background

On May 1, 2007, due to the mandatory retirement of safety employees at age 60, Mr. Vance Colvig, Pilot, Fire Services, was mandatorily retired. On December 18, 2007, the Board adopted a resolution to implement SB 134 which eliminated the mandatory age 60 retirements; however, it excluded fire safety personnel from re-employment. Therefore, Mr. Vance Colvig was unable to be re-employed until the Board adopted a resolution to implement SB 579 on October 7, 2008. SB 579, which amends Section 31663.15 and repeals Sections 31663.2 and 31680.9 of the California Government Code, permits a safety member who was required to retire from service because of age to be re-employed by the County in the same position that he retired from. Thus, pursuant to Government Code 31680.8, the District is allowed to reinstate a safety member to active membership if they were required to retire from service because of age on or after April 1, 2007, and based on medical advice, is not incapacitated for the duties of the position assigned to him.

The District is requesting your Board approve the re-employment of Mr. Vance Colvig into active County service as the District has a critical need for pilots due to the shortage of well-qualified, experienced personnel.

### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This recommendation is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal 1, Service Excellence, in which the District will utilize an experienced former employee to work in a position that would otherwise be filled by a less experienced person, thereby supporting our public safety mission.

# FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funding for this position exists within the District's Operations Budget Unit, Salary and Employee Benefits appropriation. There is no impact to net County cost.

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## FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

LACERA is governed by the Los Angeles County Employee Retirement Law of 1937. This action is in compliance with Government Code Section 31680.8, pertaining to retired members returning to active membership.

Mr. Vance Colvig has been medically evaluated through the County and determined not to be incapacitated for the duties to be performed.

This Board letter has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This action will have no negative impact on current services.

### CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Officer to return adopted copies of this letter to the following offices:

- Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County Executive Office
   1320 North Eastern Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063
- Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County Administrative Services Bureau 1320 North Eastern Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063 Attn: Deputy Chief Jesus Burciaga

Respectfully submitted

P. MICHAEL FREEMA

PMF:cdw

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
LACERA